

# **ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL BALLARAT**



## **BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CATHEDRAL & STAINED GLASS WINDOWS**



# JUBILEE YEAR 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

A Jubilee Year is a sacred year of prayer and pilgrimage during which we are called to seek forgiveness and strengthen our relationships with God, with one another and with all of creation.

Traditionally in a Jubilee, the Church offers pilgrims special opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences, prayer and reception of the sacraments in their local communities, in order to deepen their relationship with God.

This booklet has been reproduced for the Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope, to welcome pilgrim people to this sacred place.

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## HOW TO BE A PILGRIM

By preparing spiritually and reflecting at each window, you can deepen your faith and move closer to the heart of Christ through your pilgrimage.

### BEFORE THE PILGRIMAGE

**Pray and Reflect:**

- ❖ **Clarify Your Intention:** Reflect on why you are making the pilgrimage - whether to grow closer to God, seek healing or for a specific intention.
- ❖ **Pray for Guidance:** Ask God for strength and openness, using prayers like the Jubilee Prayer (as follows):

# The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both  
humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever. Amen

*Francis*

- ❖ **Reflect on the Scriptures:** Choose a Scripture that resonates with your journey.
- ❖ **Journal:** Keep a journal to note aspects of your journey, your reflections and what you sense the Holy Spirit might be calling you to in your life. The Holy Spirit who calls you to a path or an action or a change in your life or to keep

going in a difficult situation, will also provide you with the means to do that-it's free; that's why it's called Grace.

- ❖ **Ask for Prayer:** Request prayer from others for a fruitful and safe journey.

## DURING THE PILGRIMAGE

**Start with Prayer:** Offer a Pilgrim's Prayer for safe travels and openness to God's presence.

### Meditate and Reflect:

- ❖ Spend time contemplating the significance of the site and how your faith has grown.
- ❖ Reflect on your intention and the changes you have experienced. Have a 'heart-to-heart' with the One who loves you most.

**Participate in the Sacraments:** If possible, attend Mass or the Sacrament of Reconciliation at your destination or on your journey.

## AFTER THE PILGRIMAGE

**Return with Gratitude:** Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the journey, such as, "Thank You, Lord, for the graces received during my pilgrimage."

### Journal and Reflect:

- ❖ Record your reflections and how your intention was fulfilled, noting any new insights or moments of grace.
- ❖ Reflect on the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. What does it mean to you?

**Continue Your Spiritual Practice:** Maintain daily prayer and continue acts of charity or service as an extension of your pilgrimage.

*"How to be a Pilgrim" reproduced with the permission of the Diocese of Sandhurst.*

## **BRIEF HISTORY OF ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL BALLARAT**

The Parish of Ballarat was established in 1852. Preserved in the presbytery is a rare document recording the first Baptisms in Ballarat in 1852 (this predates the State registers). Also in the archive is the 1854 subscription book for the raising of funds for the first permanent purpose-built Catholic Church building in Ballarat, which was dedicated to St Patrick. The first Parish Priest for Ballarat was Fr Matthew Downing.

The architects were the Hansom brothers of England and the plans were adapted by architects Shaw and Dowden. At this stage, two towers with spires were planned for the front of the building.

Fr Downing was followed by Fr Smyth and then Fr Madden and it was Fr Madden who initiated work on St Patrick's Cathedral. Due to arguments about the stone to be used, the Church's outer walls were only up to window height when the ceremony to lay the foundation stone was held in 1858, and the first Mass was celebrated then. The Bishop, James Goold, laid the foundation stone and celebrated Mass on-site on February 7, 1858. (Bishop Goold, as Bishop of Melbourne, was the Bishop for all of Victoria at that time).

Dr Shiel took over the administration of the parish in 1858, and work started again on the incomplete building, which took another five years to reach a stage where it could be called finished. The first regular Masses commenced in St Patrick's Church on November 8, 1863. Fr Shiel was created Bishop of Adelaide in 1866. This Church consisted only of what is today the nave with a temporary chancel for the altar, which stood where the first steps to the present altar stand in the transept.

The transepts, side altars and sanctuary were completed by 1871 and on August 6, 1871, Bishop Goold officially opened and blessed the Church.

J. B. Denny, who also supervised St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, had been the supervising architect throughout. Denny then designed the western extensions of the transepts and sanctuary.

At this stage of completion in 1871, the interior of the Church was bluestone with stencil decoration. The wooden altar complemented this, with three compartments facing the congregation and stencils of monograms of Jesus, Mary, and St Patrick on red, blue and green backgrounds.

The present Stations of the Cross are the third set to hang in the Church. In 1881, a set of French Stations of the Cross was donated but presented to St Alipius at Ballarat East in 1882, when Bishop O'Connor purchased another. These, in turn, were superseded when the present set was purchased in Europe by Bishop Moore in 1887 for £420-0-0. Bishop Moore also purchased a new high altar of Carrara marble and antique precious stones, which remains at the back of the sanctuary.

The old high altar's reredos reflects the Sanctuary window's theme. The window was designed by English artist John Francis Bentley, who also designed complimentary gasoliers for the sanctuary. The window depicts the crucifixion of Jesus and the bas reliefs on the reredos, the sufferings of Christ.

St Patrick's Church was not designed as a Cathedral but as the parish church of a large provincial town. Western Victoria was created as the Diocese of Ballarat in 1874 and the first Bishop, Michael O'Connor, chose this to be his Cathedral Church rather than spend money on another.

Another gem in the archive is a woodblock of Bishop Michael O'Connor's installation on December 20, 1874 (Freeman's

Journal). This shows features such as the original stone blocks of the walls with gas light standards between the pillars (the place for the gas standards on the sanctuary can still be seen).

In 1890, the first of the Hardman stained glass was installed into the front windows, one for St Brigid (page 14) and the other for St Patrick (page 30). The final three stained glass windows were added in 1910-1912. The Cathedral was consecrated in 1891 by Cardinal Moran of Sydney and is today the oldest standing consecrated Catholic Cathedral in Australia (a Cathedral cannot be consecrated until it is debt-free). The craftsmanship of the scissor beam roof was created by local carver Mr Thompson. Other examples of crafts are in the carvings and remnant stenciling (discovered in the renovations and restoration work of 2000).

Other significant art and craft works include the barrel vaulting and tracery of the side altar ceilings, window tracery, carvings, tiling and stained-glass work. The stained glass came from Clayton and Bell of London and John Hardman & Co. of Birmingham, England.

The sanctuary tiles are Austrian and depict the four evangelists. The eagle lectern, from France, represents St John the Evangelist (the eagle) surmounting the three messengers of God, the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

The Church is a Gothic revival (the fashion of the time) and is in the style of the thirteenth century. The decorative elements were designed not only to be beautiful but also to be instructive, as many people of the time were illiterate.

The symbol that marks this Church as a Cathedral is the Bishop's Chair (or throne). This symbolises the teaching and administrative authority of the Bishop of a Diocese.

*Michael Taffe  
Ballarat Diocesan Historical Commission*



# **HISTORY OF THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS**

The parishioners of St Patrick's Cathedral have a rich heritage in their Church's stained glass windows. The Cathedral was constructed in stages; initially, the windows contained colored glass. The style of the Church is Gothic, from the reign of Edward I in the 13th century. Dimensions are 150 feet x 100 feet.

The Ballarat Star newspaper of August 5, 1871, reported that the windows "contain stone tracery of the richest design, and the effect produced is elegant" and that they would eventually be filled with stained glass. Presumably, the windows as we know them today date from that time.

The Main Chancel window is dedicated to the memory of Miss Caroline Carpenter, with the date 1883 (see page 9).

The Lady Chapel (page 8) and Blessed Sacrament Chapel windows (pages 12 & 13) were installed in May 1890.

Bishop Joseph Higgins (1905-1915) oversaw many works to beautify the interior of the Cathedral. This third Bishop of Ballarat donated the St Patrick window (page 26), complementary to the St Brigid window (page 14) commissioned and donated by the Loreto Sisters in memory of the first Bishop of Ballarat.

There is a theme of parables on the left-hand side and miracles on the right-hand side of the Cathedral.

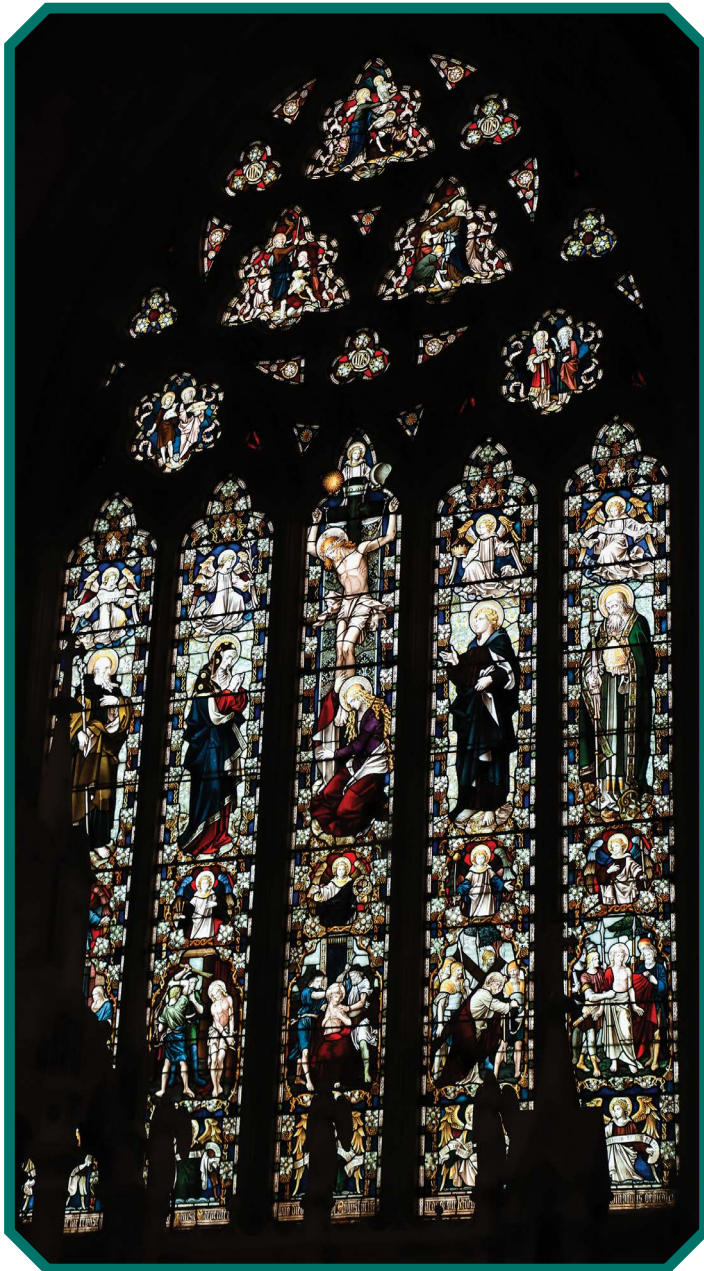
Records reveal that from 1907-1910, the series of Our Lord's Miracles was placed in position for £150.

These windows, as well as the Prodigal window (page 19), are documented as having been supplied by John Hardman & Co. of Birmingham, England. The bottom of the glass has the name 'Hardman' cut into it.



In the early 1950s, the 'elegant stone tracery' of sandstone was found to have deteriorated. Then Cathedral Administrator, Monsignor Leo Fiscalini, removed the windows and dispatched them to Melbourne to re-lead the stained glass. Lodge Bros of

Melbourne, whose masons from Malta completed the stone-carving work, renewed all the supporting stonework in Hawkesbury River stone, the best in Australia. The project cost £20,000.



*High Altar window  
dedication:  
On your charity  
pray for the  
repose of the  
soul of Louisa  
Carpenter who  
died the 2 day  
of August in  
the year of our  
Redemption 1883  
in whose memory  
this window is  
dedicated*

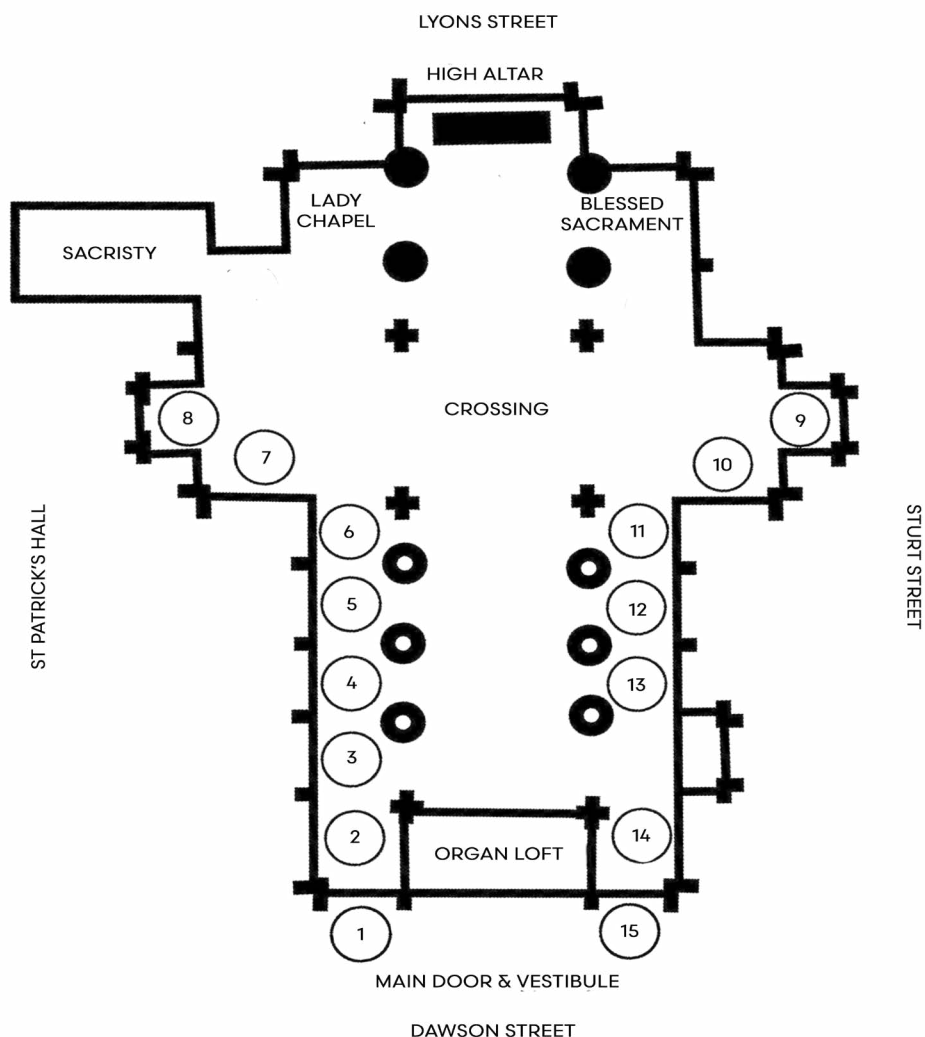


*Organ Loft window dedication: Erected by Thomas Loughlin to the memory of his uncle Martin Loughlin RIP*

*The Organ Loft windows are dedicated to  
Our Lady Queen of Angels.*

*The Virgin Mary is in blue in the middle, with  
Christ the King to her right and God the Father to her left.  
The Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, is above her.  
A chorus of angels fills the sections of the tracery.*

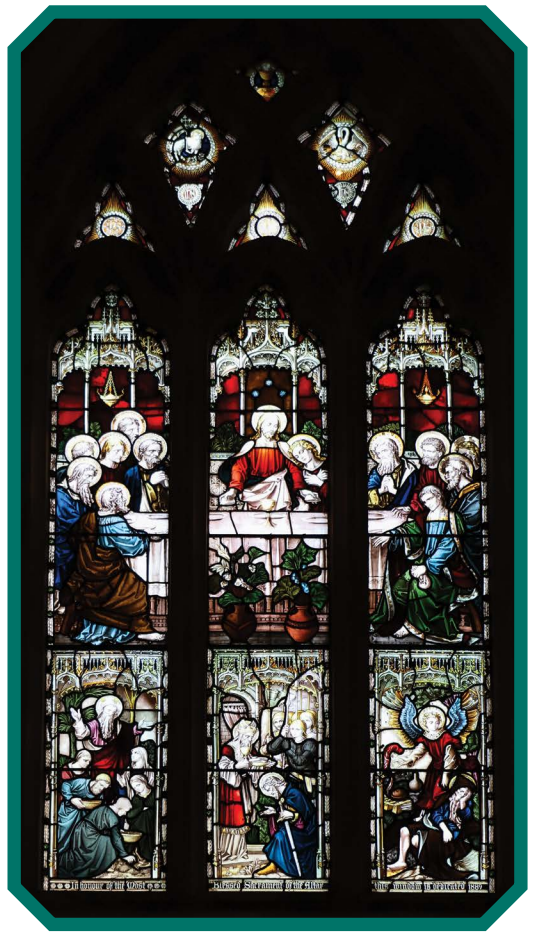
*A scroll runs through the three central sections:  
"MARIA EXALTATA EST SUPER CHOROS ANGELORUM"  
"Mary has been exalted above the choirs of angels."*







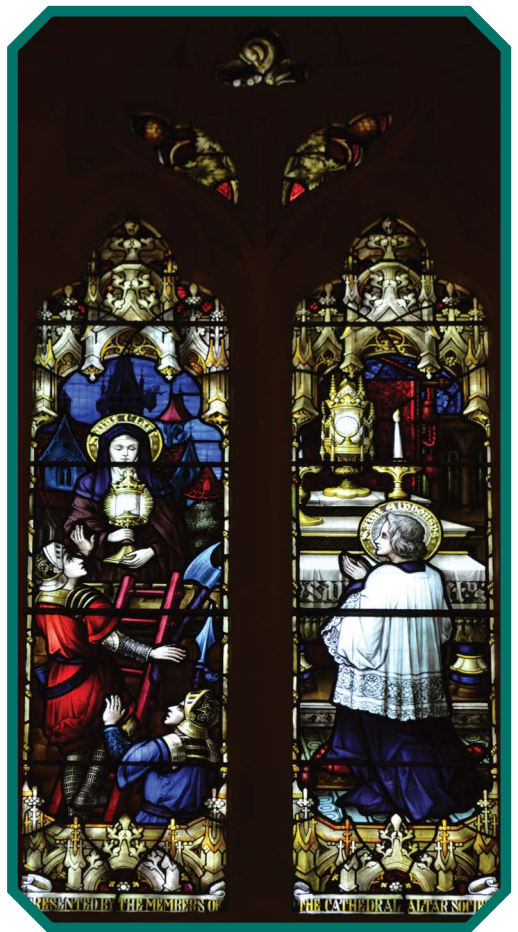
*Lady Chapel Windows  
erected to the  
memory of the  
children of  
James & Maria  
Malcolm*



*Blessed Sacrament  
Chapel Windows:  
In honour of the  
Most Blessed Sacrament  
of the Altar  
this window is  
dedicated 1889*



*Blessed Sacrament  
Chapel Windows:  
In charity say an Ave  
for the artists whose  
privilege it was to  
produce by their labour  
the windows of this  
Cathedral Church*



*Blessed Sacrament  
Chapel Windows:  
Presented by the  
Members of the  
Cathedral Altar Society*

*These three Blessed Sacrament Chapel  
windows are of German origin -  
note their slight variation in colour.*

# **Window 1:**

## **St Brigid, Abbess of Kildare - 6th century**

### **Feast Day: February 1**

"The Mary of the Gael" is surrounded by many legends, but is reputed to have been strong, compassionate and of great charity. She is regarded as the initiator and abbess of the first women's religious community among the Irish and appears to have held a unique position in the Irish church even in her lifetime, exercising a strong influence on its early growth. She is shown here instructing the people (note the Crozier, which is a traditional mark of a Bishop).

The Holy Spirit is in the form of a dove at the top. Two mitres are under the dove. The mitre on the left depicts three figures - Jesus, Peter and James. The mitre on the right depicts a stole with crosses, signifying priesthood.

*These windows were erected by the  
Community of the Loreto Abbey,  
to the memory of  
Most Rev Michael O'Connor,  
First Bishop of Ballarat RIP  
1874-1883*







# THE PARABLES

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## Window 2: Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard



The day-long labourers grumble at the householder for giving the latecomers to the vineyard the same payment as theirs.

*Windows presented by  
Maurice and Winifred Riordan*

## Window 3: Parable of the Good Samaritan

### Right panel:

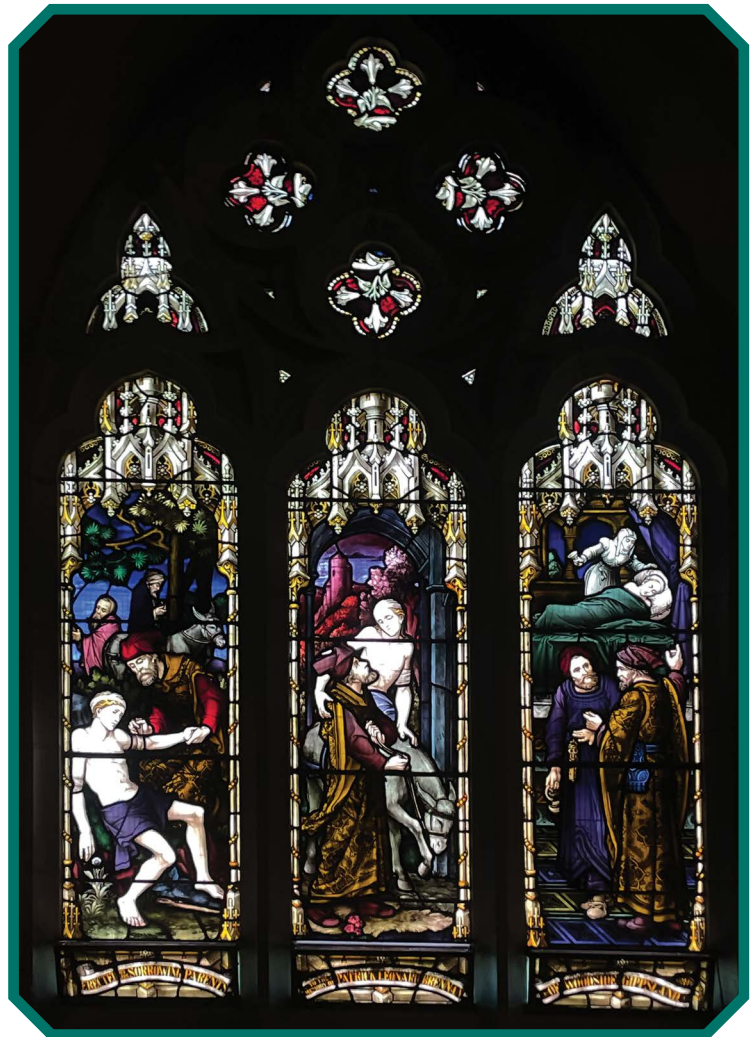
A priest and Levite pass by at back, while the Good Samaritan tends the wounds of a man robbed and beaten.

### Middle panel:

The Good Samaritan sets the man on his donkey and takes him to an inn.

### Left panel:

The Good Samaritan pays the innkeeper to look after the man. The inset at top of this panel is the sick man being nursed to health.



*Windows erected by his sorrowing  
parents to the memory of  
Patrick Leonard Brennan  
of Woodside Gippsland RIP*

## Window 4: Parable of the Ten Maidens



The five wise attendants are ready to accompany the bridegroom to the wedding feast.

The foolish five on the right are excluded by their lack of preparation.

*Windows erected by her  
mother to the memory of  
Jane Magill RIP*



## Window 5: Parable of the lost son ('the prodigal') and the dutiful son

### Left panel:

The prodigal son under the acorn tree among the pigs.

### Middle panel:

The second, the dutiful son, remonstrating with his father.

### Right panel:

Reunites the lost son with his compassionate father.

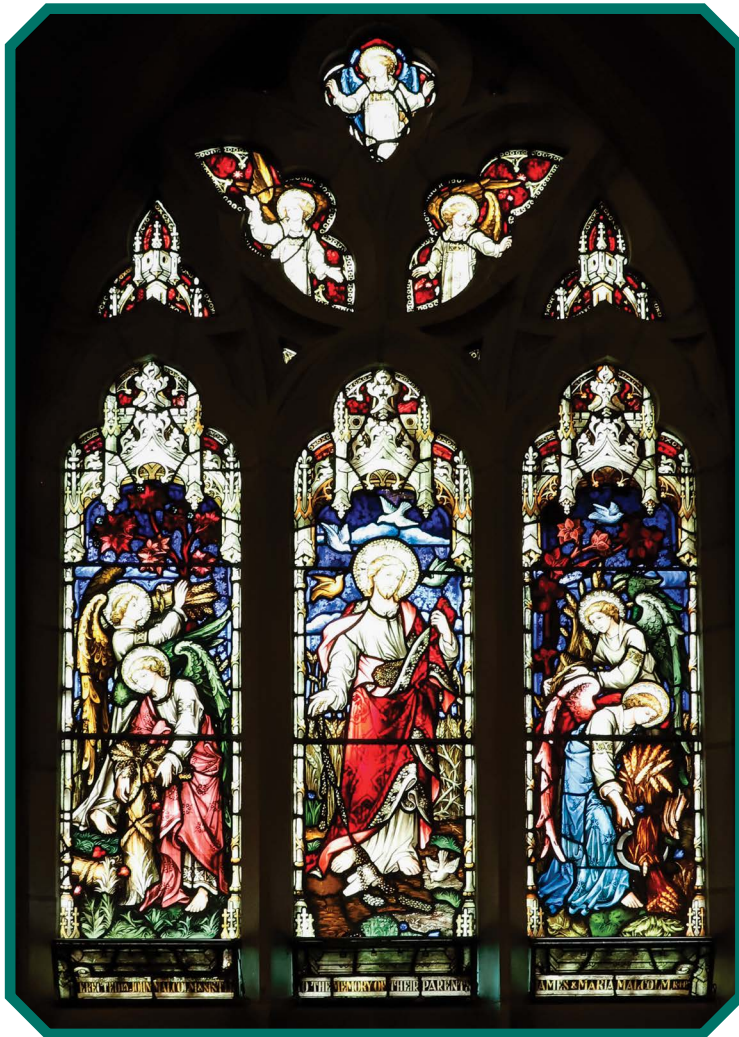
A double parable:

- The first is of God's loving mercy towards the repentant sinner.
- The second is an invitation to those who have always been faithful to not be resentful, but to also rejoice in the good news.



*Windows erected by their children  
to the memory of  
Daniel & Eileen Brophy RIP*

## Window 6: Parable of the weeds and the wheat



The angels are separating the weeds from the wheat, ie. the wicked from the righteous, at the time appointed by God whose judgement is not to be anticipated.

*Windows erected by  
John Malcolm & sister  
to the memory of their parents  
James & Maria Malcolm RIP*

# SOUTH TRANSEPT

## Window 7: The burial of Jesus

John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, stands at the right comforting the Mother of God. Mary of Magdala is kneeling.

Joseph of Arimathaea, who provided the tomb, is helped by Nicodemus.

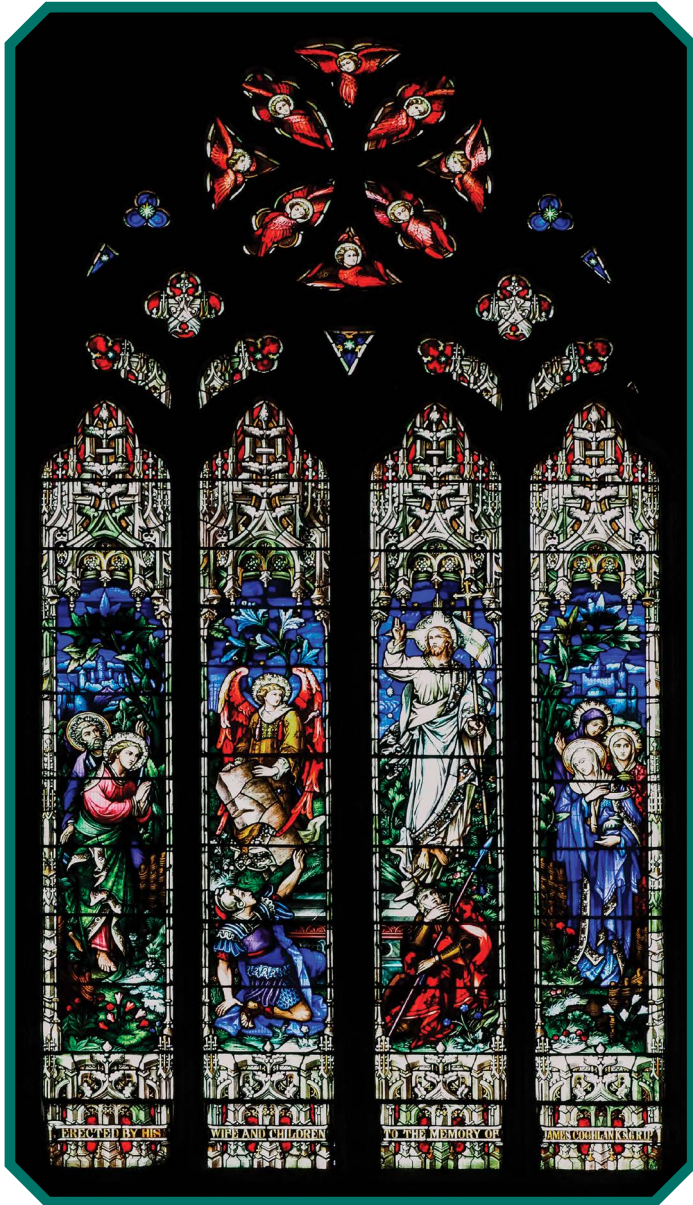
The Hill of Calvary, with three crosses, is in the background and the discarded crown of thorns is in the foreground.

*Windows erected by  
her daughter Anastatia  
to the memory of  
Margaret Magill RIP*





## Window 8: The Resurrection



The angel of the Lord imparts the news to Mary of Magdala, Joanna and Mary, the mother of James, while the two guards recoil in fear.

Jesus appears in His glorified state, with disciples Peter and John on the left.

*Windows erected  
by his wife  
and children  
to the memory of  
James Coughlan  
KSG RIP*



## NORTH TRANSEPT

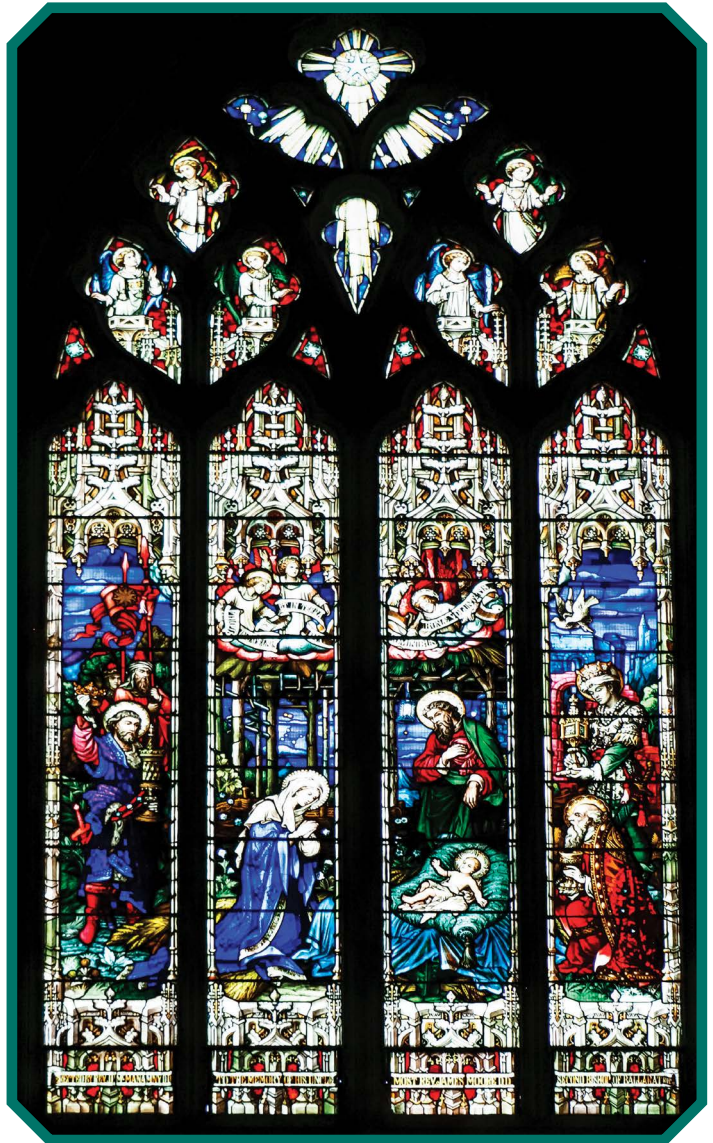
### Window 9: The visit of the Magi (Epiphany)

The Star of Bethlehem is at the top, with the Angels on high.

The Holy Family is surrounded by the wise men offering gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

This beautiful four panel window represents the revelation of Christ to the world.

*Windows  
erected by Rev J  
McManamny to  
the memory of his  
uncle Most Rev  
James Moore DD,  
Second Bishop of  
Ballarat RIP*



## Window 10: The Annunciation



An angel at the top holds a scroll bearing the word "Ave", with rejoicing angels underneath.

The angel Gabriel receives the virgin's "Yes" to God's invitation to co-operate in His plan of redemption for the world. "Let what you have said be done to me", and Mary is overshadowed by the Holy Spirit.

*Windows erected by  
his brother and sisters  
to the memory of the  
Rev James P  
McManamny RIP*

## Window 11: Son of the widow of Nain restored to life

Jesus, with His disciples, stops at the gate of the town of Nain, where an only son is being carried out for burial. He comforts the bereaved widow, raises up the young man, still swathed in his burial cloths and the townspeople praise God.



*Windows erected by  
his wife and children  
to the memory of  
Thomas McManamny RIP*



# THE MIRACLES

## Window 12



*Windows  
erected by  
his  
brother &  
sisters  
to the  
memory of  
Richard  
Foley RIP*

### **Left panel - Cure of the man born blind:**

Jesus, in company with Peter and John, heals a man who had been blind from birth.

### **Middle panel - Cure of the woman with a hemorrhage:**

The sails in the background indicate a journey to the other side of the lake.

In company with Peter, James and the other disciples, Jesus heals the woman whose faith tells her that if she can touch even his clothes, she will be made well again.

### **Right panel - The ten lepers:**

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus cures ten lepers. Nine go on their way, throwing their caps in the air with joy, but only one returns to thank the Lord.

## Window 13



### The Miracle of the loaves:

Jesus feeds  
a great  
crowd from  
five barley  
loaves and  
two fish and  
the scraps  
fill twelve  
baskets.

Peter,  
James and  
the other  
disciples  
mingle with  
the crowd.

*Windows erected by his wife & daughter  
to the memory of John Higgins RIP*

## Window 14

### Left panel - The Gerasene demoniac:

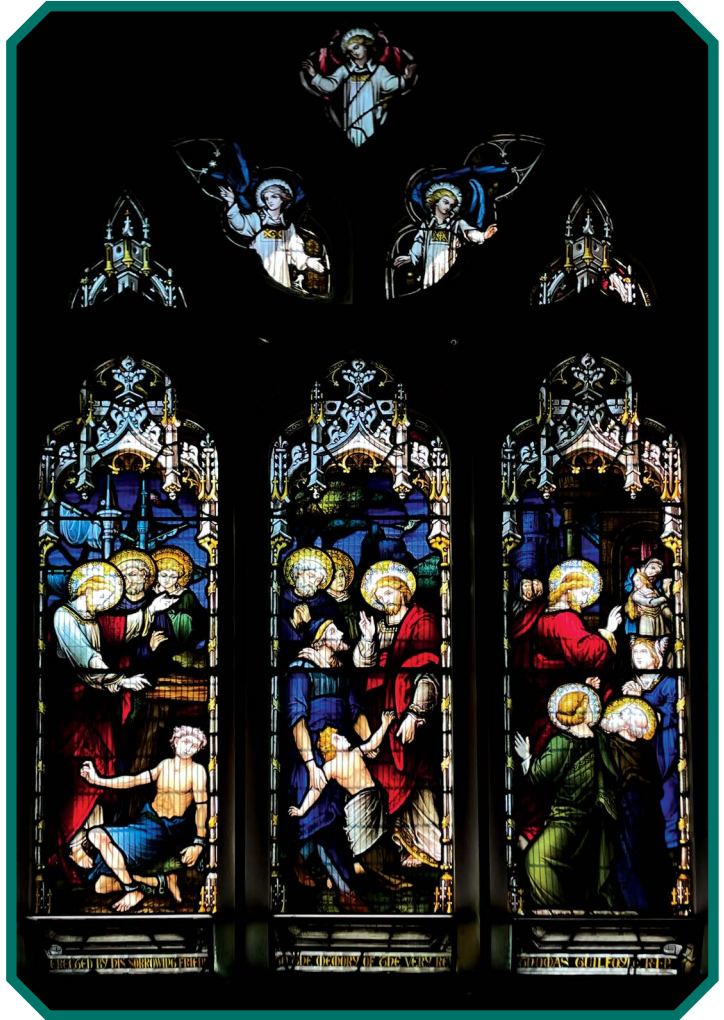
The sails at the top signify that the country of the Gerasenes was on the other side of the lake. The man has broken the chains which bound him and Jesus frees him of his unclean spirits.

### Middle Panel - The epileptic demoniac:

Jesus, accompanied by Peter and John, takes pity on a man's disturbed son and restores him to health.

### Right panel - The daughter of the Canaanite woman healed:

A woman pleads with Jesus to free her daughter who is tormented by a devil. Because of her great faith Jesus complies and mother and daughter are reunited in cameo (pictured top right).



*Windows erected by his sorrowing  
friend to the memory of  
Very Rev Thomas Guilfoyle RIP*



**Window 15:**  
**St Patrick, Missionary Bishop (385-432)**  
**Patron of the Diocese of Ballarat and the**  
**Cathedral Parish. Feast Day - March 17**



*Window presented by Most Rev Joseph Higgins DD,  
Third Bishop of Ballarat*

This window complements the one of St Brigid, revered in Ireland only less than St Patrick himself. They are similar in design, with the Holy Spirit at the top and a mitre on each side underneath - the left side features a stole and priestly crosses. The right side features a mitre combined with the keys of St Peter (a sign of the Papacy).

The scene depicts St Patrick's historic meeting with High King Laoghaire on Tara Hill (one of the pagan retinue holds a harp). It was a significant event since Patrick's mission depended on the local king's or chieftain's initial consent. The High King was not converted, but soon after, members of his family were baptised.

Patrick, born in Britain, was captured by Irish sea raiders and taken from England to Ireland when he was 16. He was kept there as a herdsman for six years. During that time, in his own words, "The Lord opened the sense of my unbelief," and he became a man of intense prayer and religious dedication. He escaped to England but was called in a dream to return to Ireland to preach Christ there, which he did as the second Bishop of Ireland c.432. He established his Episcopal See at Armagh, which today is the See of the Primate of all Ireland.

St Patrick was responsible for mass conversions and establishing an enduring Church in Ireland, which sent missionaries to Australia. A contemporary historian sums up St Patrick in his writings as being "a sensitive, excitable, strongly spoken person - yet home-loving and deeply compassionate." His emblem is the shamrock on his stole and the sprig he holds in his right hand (middle panel).

One legend reputed him as having baptised a man, Aengus, at Cashel, spearing him through the foot with his Episcopal staff during the ceremony. Aengus bore it without a murmur, thinking it was part of the baptismal ceremony!

*Text on stained glass windows courtesy of Fr G A Jones.  
Images are the property of the Diocese of Ballarat.  
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The Diocesan Coat of Arms may be described as a blue Latin cross standing on a grassy mound with a gold nugget at its foot



These two images of the Diocesan Coat of Arms are above the main entrance doors inside the Cathedral



[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)